- 1 (Whereupon, the following
- 2 proceedings were not of a
- 3 confidential nature and were had
- 4 in open court.)
- 5 MS. SODERNA: So I'm done with that particular
- 6 line.
- 7 JUDGE GILBERT: Then we're back in the public
- 8 record.
- 9 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 10 BY
- 11 MS. SODERNA:
- 12 Q The total number of contracts we discussed
- 13 earlier entered into in 2005 was 110,000; would you
- 14 agree with me? It was in response to Staff's CSD
- 15 2.01, which I think you have.
- 16 A Purpose -- let me just say, subject to
- 17 check. I think --
- 18 Q Yeah, I'm not sure it's critical for these
- 19 questions. But, yeah, let's just say subject to
- 20 check and then we can reverify that later if we need
- 21 to.
- According to the Company, in your

- 1 rebuttal testimony, which was filed in December, the
- 2 Company had approximately 100,000 customers; right?
- 3 A Correct.
- 4 Q Okay. And has the Company -- I think you
- 5 answered this already -- but has the Company
- 6 performed any additional calculations, analyses or
- 7 studies showing whether any other customers who have
- 8 completed their contract saved money with
- 9 U.S. Energy's product as compared to what they would
- 10 have paid to the utility?
- 11 A No, we haven't.
- 12 Q And you're familiar enough with CUB's gas
- 13 marketer to recognize this cross-exhibit, which I'll
- 14 mark as 15. And you attached something similar to
- 15 your direct testimony showing results of the gas
- 16 market monitor and this is -- this represents the
- 17 results of the gas marketer regarding U.S. Energy's
- 18 fixed-price product. And this is as of October 14th,
- 19 yesterday.
- 20 (Whereupon, CUB Cross-Exhibit
- No. 15 was marked for
- identification.)

- 1 BY MS. SODERNA:
- 2 Q Does this look familiar to you generally?
- 3 A Oh, yes, it does.
- 4 Q And the pages just -- it goes in reverse
- 5 date order starting with the most recent date. And
- 6 if you go to the last page of this exhibit, the very
- 7 last entry, which indicates the product Just Energy
- 8 offered as of October 3rd, 2005. And it indicates it
- 9 was a fixed priced offer for four years at \$1.30;
- 10 right?
- 11 A That's what it says, yes.
- 12 Q And at that time it looks like there was a
- monthly fee of 365; is that accurate?
- 14 A I don't believe so. We don't charge -- on
- those products I don't think we've ever charged an
- 16 administrative fee.
- 17 Q Okay. Let's look at the results from
- 18 October 18th, 2005 --
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q -- which is the fixed-price product for
- 21 four years. Let's look at that four-year product.
- 22 Because those customers as of this week will have

- 1 completed their four years contract -- those that
- 2 stayed with the Company; right?
- 3 A Yes.
- The four-year you're saying?
- 5 Q Yeah, I'm referring to the four year
- 6 because, of course, 2005 is when they contracted.
- 7 So...
- 8 A Okay.
- 9 Q So would you agree with me that this shows
- 10 that a customer using an average -- the average
- amount of gas CUB assumes, which is 1325 therms who
- 12 completed their four-year contract paid an additional
- 13 \$2,471.30 than they would have paid had they stayed
- 14 with utility? Do you see that?
- 15 A I see where it says that, yes.
- 16 Q You don't agree that that's accurate?
- 17 A Well, I can't agree. I didn't do it. I
- 18 see that that's what you've got reflected there.
- 19 O Okay. The next few questions -- or the
- 20 next couple questions I have were marked -- and I'll
- 21 have you check -- they were marked as confidential
- 22 and want to make sure I don't tread on any

- 1 confidential material. It's Page -- direct testimony
- 2 Page 4, Lines 83 and 48. And I'm quickly nearing
- 3 completion.
- 4 A What page? Sorry.
- 5 Q Page 4, Lines 83 and 84. And we can go in
- 6 camera if you maintain the confidentiality of that
- 7 statement.
- 8 MR. CLANCY: That's been dedesignated.
- 9 MS. SODERNA: It has? Okay. I just want to
- 10 make sure.
- 11 BY MS. SODERNA:
- 12 Q Okay. So there you state that generally
- 13 though, not --
- 14 JUDGE GILBERT: Don't tell him what he says.
- 15 Just ask the question. He knows where it is.
- 16 BY MS. SODERNA:
- 17 Q So -- all right. Well, then we can just
- 18 move in.
- In your rebuttal testimony you take
- 20 issue with Miss Alexander's statement that the
- 21 product marketed by U.S. Energy in 2007 provided no
- 22 economic benefit; right?

- 1 A I believe so, yes.
- 2 Q And that's because you believe that the
- 3 possibility that a customer could save money in
- 4 comparison to what they pay to the utility or some
- 5 other product provides some sort of economic benefit
- 6 to that customer; right?
- 7 A Can you provide the reference from where
- 8 you're reading from?
- 9 Q I'm actually just asking your opinion.
- 10 A Okay. Sorry. Restate it.
- 11 Q I'm asking if you believe that the
- 12 possibility that a customer would save money in
- 13 comparison to what he or she would have paid to the
- 14 utility or another alternative supplier provides some
- 15 sort of economic benefit to them? The potential of
- 16 saving money provides the economic benefit. Is that
- 17 your opinion?
- 18 A It would if it provided -- or -- if it
- 19 provided savings, yes.
- 20 Q Right.
- 21 A If there was an opportunity to save.
- 22 Q You would agree with me, wouldn't you, that

- 1 customers who completed their U.S. Energy contract --
- 2 and let's just say hypothetically here -- who paid
- 3 more than they would have paid the utility -- and
- 4 let's just for the sake of argument say substantially
- 5 more than they would have paid to the utility --
- 6 received no economic benefit from U.S. Energy's
- 7 product; wouldn't you agree?
- 8 A No, I disagree.
- 9 Q And the economic benefit that you believe
- 10 those customers received was the ability to pay the
- 11 same amount every month even if it's more?
- 12 A Same as they do with so many other products
- 13 I mentioned earlier. Same as they do for insurance.
- 14 It's a stability product.
- MS. SODERNA: Okay. That's all I have,
- 16 actually.
- 17 JUDGE GILBERT: Do you still want to move for
- 18 admission of --
- 19 MS. SODERNA: I do.
- 20 I'd like to move for the admission
- 21 of --
- JUDGE GILBERT: I have 9 through 15.

- 1 MS. SODERNA: -- CUB Cross-Exhibits 9 through
- 2 15, please.
- 3 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. With the understanding
- 4 that you're probably going to have to redact some
- 5 information from a couple of those or I have to make
- 6 a designation to some of the information on a couple
- 7 of those can't be used as evidence because there's
- 8 more than one data request on the same page.
- 9 With that understanding, are there
- 10 objections to the admission of any or all of these?
- 11 MR. McMANAMAN: Let me just make sure.
- I think the only objection I have is
- 13 the last one, which is Cross-Exhibit 15. It's the
- 14 copy of the gas market monitor. I don't know that
- 15 the witness laid the necessary foundation for the
- 16 admission of that one.
- 17 JUDGE GILBERT: Julie, there's an objection.
- 18 Please respond.
- 19 MS. SODERNA: I'm sorry.
- 20 MR. McMANAMAN: It was just No. 15, the gas
- 21 market monitor. And the objection was a lack of
- 22 foundation from the witness.

- 1 MS. SODERNA: Lack of foundation? He testified
- 2 that not only does he provide the information to CUB,
- 3 but he reviews -- he's reviewed it on several
- 4 occasions and he references it in his direct
- 5 testimony. He attaches it as an exhibit, the
- 6 results. This is just a more updated version of it.
- 7 I mean, his criticisms of it are well documented in
- 8 his testimony.
- 9 JUDGE GILBERT: Yeah, I'm just going to cut to
- 10 the chase. I'm denying the objection.
- 11 You have not objected to the others so
- 12 all of them are admitted. However, I need both
- 13 parties to look at each of the exhibits that have
- 14 data requests and either choose to redact the
- information that was not part of cross-examination or
- 16 I can make a ruling that anything that was not part
- 17 of cross-examination cannot be used as evidence.
- 18 So you can either change it physically
- 19 or you can identify for me which parts are not to be
- 20 used as evidence and I'll make a ruling on that.

- 1 (Whereupon, CUB Cross-Exhibit
- Nos. 9 through 15 were admitted
- into evidence.)
- 4 MS. SODERNA: We will do that. Right now you
- 5 want us to do it?
- 6 MR. McMANAMAN: Let's choose to do the
- 7 redactions ourselves. How about that?
- 8 MS. SODERNA: And then submit it later --
- 9 MR. McMANAMAN: Yeah, we can swap.
- 10 MR. CLANCY: We can do it at the end.
- 11 MS. SODERNA: That works for me, and save time.
- 12 JUDGE GILBERT: And swap out the exhibits?
- MR. CLANCY: Yes.
- 14 JUDGE GILBERT: Perfect.
- 15 Let's go off the record for a moment.
- 16 (Whereupon, a discussion was had
- off the record.)
- 18 JUDGE GILBERT: All right. The game plan is as
- 19 follows: We're going to take a brief lunch break.
- 20 It really can't be any longer than a half-hour given
- 21 our time constraints. If you want to bring back food
- 22 and eat it here, that's perfectly fine with me.

- Our next witness is going to be CUB
- 2 witness Zermeno. Now, because of time constraints of
- 3 the witnesses I was presented with a choice of either
- 4 going to Ms. Alexander next or Mr. Zermeno. CUB has
- 5 chosen to go with Mr. Zermeno first and that's their
- 6 choice.
- 7 That means the following:
- 8 Ms. Alexander has informed us that she needs to leave
- 9 by 4:00 p.m. in order to catch a plane. I'm going to
- 10 make a judgment call as this proceeds. If I feel
- 11 like either cross or direct or redirect examination
- is essentially consuming time without need, I'm going
- 13 to cut it off. On the other hand, depending on how I
- 14 read the situation as it proceeds it may be necessary
- for Miss Alexander to come back or it may be
- 16 necessary for me to stop cross-examination so that
- 17 she can go home and not come back. So I'll be making
- 18 a judgment call on the conduct of counsel in order to
- 19 deal with the time constraints that I've been
- 20 presented with and about which I have no choice
- 21 because neither witness can come back tomorrow.
- So with that in mind, let's take a

- 1 half-hour, come back. Let's be promptly ready to go.
- 2 Bring food and drink if you need to. We start with
- 3 Mr. Zermeno.
- 4 Anybody want to say anything?
- 5 MR. McMANAMAN: Can I just ask one question?
- 6 JUDGE GILBERT: Sure.
- 7 MR. McMANAMAN: When we come back we're going
- 8 to start with Mr. Zermeno and then are we immediately
- 9 going to Miss Alexander before we go back to
- 10 Mr. Potter?
- 11 JUDGE GILBERT: Yes, we are.
- MR. McMANAMAN: Can I just note that I have an
- objection to that for the record, that Miss Alexander
- 14 is going to start and finish while Mr. Potter's
- 15 testimony is open.
- 16 JUDGE GILBERT: Yeah. That's what's going to
- 17 happen because there's more cross-examination from
- 18 Staff, I assume. Yes?
- MS. NAUGHTON: Yes, I can try to shorten it.
- 20 JUDGE GILBERT: I have some questions. There's
- 21 just not a way to do this otherwise. So objection
- 22 noted.

- 1 MR. McMANAMAN: Right.
- JUDGE GILBERT: That's all I can do.
- 3 MR. McMANAMAN: I figured that the outcome was
- 4 predestined, but I just wanted to make sure I have it
- 5 in the record.
- 6 JUDGE GILBERT: That's fair. I'll see you in a
- 7 half-hour.
- 8 MS. LIN: Judge, can we do -- is it possible
- 9 that we just do Zermeno now and then break for lunch
- or is that not your preference?
- JUDGE GILBERT: Let's stop for a second. Off
- 12 the record.
- 13 (Whereupon, a discussion was had
- off the record.)
- JUDGE GILBERT: We're back on the record.
- 16 (Interpreter and Witness duly
- 17 sworn.)
- 18 JUDGE GILBERT: Would the interpreter state his
- 19 name, please.
- 20 THE INTERPRETER: Luciano Salem.

- 1 LUCIANO SALEM,
- 2 called as an interpreter herein, was sworn to
- 3 interpret the questions from the English language to
- 4 the Spanish language and the answers from the Spanish
- 5 language to the English language.
- 6 ALEX ZERMENO,
- 7 called as a witness herein, having been first duly
- 8 sworn, was examined and testified through an
- 9 interpreter as follows:
- 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 11 BY
- MS. SODERNA:
- 13 Q Good morning, Mr. Zermeno. Could you
- 14 please state your full name for the record.
- 15 A Alex Zermeno.
- 16 Q Could you spell it for me.
- 17 A A-1-e-x Z-e-r-m-e-n-o.
- 18 Q Thank you.
- 19 And did you prepare written testimony
- 20 for this proceeding?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And you have in front of you your direct

- 1 testimony that is labeled as CUB Exhibit 4.0, and
- 2 your rebuttal testimony which is labeled as CUB
- 3 Exhibit 7.0? Do you have those in front of you?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Do you have any corrections to your
- 6 testimony?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q And are these -- is the information
- 9 contained in this testimony true and accurate to the
- 10 best of your knowledge and belief?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And if I were to ask you the questions set
- 13 forth in your direct and rebuttal testimony today,
- would your answers be the same?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 MS. SODERNA: And with that I'd like to move
- 17 for the admission of CUB Exhibits 4.0 and -- the
- direct testimony of Alex Zermeno and CUB Exhibit 7.0,
- 19 the rebuttal testimony of Alex Zermeno subject to
- 20 cross-examination, please.
- JUDGE GILBERT: Are there any objections to the
- 22 admission of CUB Exhibits 4.0 or 7.0?

- 1 MR. McMANAMAN: None, your Honor.
- 2 MS. NAUGHTON: None.
- JUDGE GILBERT: Okay.
- 4 MS. SODERNA: Can I clarify quickly? I'm
- 5 sorry, your Honor. There are also Spanish versions
- 6 of each of his testimonies that are labeled and have
- 7 been submitted to the parties. They are labeled as
- 8 CUB Exhibit 4.0S and CUB Exhibit 7.0S. And I would
- 9 also move for the admission of those testimonies,
- 10 please.
- 11 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. Are there any objections
- 12 to the Spanish versions of those testimonies?
- MR. McMANAMAN: None, your Honor.
- MS. NAUGHTON: None.
- 15 JUDGE GILBERT: Thank you for that
- 16 clarification.
- 17 CUB Exhibits 4.0 and 4.0S, 7.0 and
- 18 7.0S are admitted.
- 19 (Whereupon, CUB Exhibit
- Nos. 4.0, 4.0S, 7.0 and 7.0S
- 21 were admitted into evidence.)
- JUDGE GILBERT: Go off the record for just a

- 1 moment.
- 2 (Whereupon, a discussion was had
- off the record.)
- 4 JUDGE GILBERT: Back on the record.
- 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 6 BY
- 7 MR. McMANAMAN:
- 8 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Zermeno.
- 9 A Good afternoon.
- 11 attorney representing the Company in this case, Just
- 12 Energy, which used to be called U.S. Energy Savings
- 13 Corp.
- I'm going to ask you a few questions
- 15 about the testimony that you provided.
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q In your testimony you indicated that you
- 18 signed a contract in 2007; is that correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q As of 2007 -- actually, let me ask it this
- 21 way: How long have you lived in the United States?
- 22 A About 19.

- 1 O Years?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q And is that as of today?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q So is it fair to say that you came to live
- 6 in the United States in 1990?
- 7 A Yes. Yes.
- 8 Q Have you lived -- since you've lived in the
- 9 U.S., have you always lived in Chicago?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And where do you work, Mr. Zermeno?
- 12 A In a company called Salisbury.
- Q And what kind of company is Salisbury?
- 14 A We make rubber for protection for
- 15 electricity.
- 16 Q And what is your job?
- 17 A I weight the materials for the formulas.
- 18 Q And how long have you worked at Salisbury?
- 19 A Five years.
- 20 Q Where did you work before that?
- 21 A In a Korean company where they made
- 22 briefcases.

- 1 Q Okay. Are you married?
- 2 A No, we just live together.
- 3 Q Do you have any children?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And what are their ages?
- 6 A Just one, 11 years old.
- 7 Q And does he go to school here in Chicago?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q What school does he go to?
- 10 A The name is Trumbull.
- 11 Q Is it spelled T-r-u-m-b-u-l-l?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Now, is it -- am I correct in understanding
- 14 that you speak no English?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q So what you're telling me is that since
- 17 you've come to live in the United States in 1990 that
- 18 you've learned no English?
- 19 A Very little.
- 20 Q And that you don't conduct any of your --
- 21 any transactions in your personal life in English?
- 22 A I always ask for them to be in Spanish.

- 1 Q When you're at work, do you deal with any
- of your -- do you speak English to any of your
- 3 coworkers?
- 4 A I work almost with all Hispanics.
- 5 Q Okay. And with your children's school, do
- 6 you speak Spanish with all of the people at the
- 7 school?
- 8 A I hardly talk to anyone over there.
- 9 Q Okay. Has there ever been points in your
- 10 recent past -- let just say the last few months --
- where you've been required to speak English?
- 12 A Sometimes they ask me to speak English, but
- 13 I said "no" because I don't understand.
- 14 O Have you ever signed any agreements in
- 15 English?
- 16 A No, since that -- since this happened to
- me, not anymore.
- 18 Q Did you ever sign any agreements that were
- 19 written in English before the contract that we're
- 20 here about today?
- 21 A I don't remember.
- 22 Q Okay. Can you tell me where you live.

- 1 A 1603 W Catalpa in Chicago, Illinois.
- 2 Q Is that an apartment?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Do you own the apartment?
- 5 A No, I rent.
- 6 Q Do you have a lease?
- 7 A Not now.
- 8 Q Did you have one at any time?
- 9 A Yes, last year.
- 10 Q Was it written in English?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Okay. Now, what -- excuse me for just a
- 13 second.
- MR. McMANAMAN: So, Judge, what I'd like to do
- is play a copy of the verification call and then, you
- 16 know, have the witness listen to it and just ask him
- 17 a couple questions just to authenticate it.
- 18 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay.
- 19 MR. McMANAMAN: Unless you think that we can
- 20 just stipulate to the authentication.
- MS. SODERNA: Judge, I'll put it to you. Would
- 22 you like to hear it or do you think we can dispense

- 1 with the --
- JUDGE GILBERT: I'd like to --
- 3 MS. SODERNA: I just find it difficult to
- 4 understand why we would stipulate to something that
- 5 the rest of the room hasn't heard and the Judge
- 6 hasn't heard, but --
- 7 MR. McMANAMAN: That's fine.
- JUDGE GILBERT: If that's the only issue, I
- 9 wouldn't mind saving the time. Is there any doubt
- 10 that this is the authentication?
- MS. SODERNA: No. There's no doubt that that's
- 12 the verification tape for the transaction at issue.
- 13 JUDGE GILBERT: Is there a transcript -- a
- 14 written transcript in the way that CUB provided --
- MS. SODERNA: There is I think attached to -- I
- 16 think we have them here if we need them.
- MR. McMANAMAN: But we didn't prepare it, your
- 18 Honor.
- 19 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay.
- 20 MR. McMANAMAN: I think it probably is worth
- 21 listening to. It's only a few minutes.
- 22 JUDGE GILBERT: All right. Well, on this it

- 1 looks like we're only going have a CD and not a
- 2 transcript. So why don't we mark that --
- 3 MR. McMANAMAN: I have it marked as
- 4 Respondent's Cross-Exhibit 1, if that's okay.
- 5 JUDGE GILBERT: You don't have a transcript, do
- 6 you?
- 7 MR. McMANAMAN: I don't because the transcript
- 8 isn't really the important part from my perspective.
- 9 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. But from the court
- 10 reporter's perspective now is she going to be
- 11 transcribing Spanish?
- MR. McMANAMAN: No, it's in English.
- 13 JUDGE GILBERT: Entirely?
- MR. McMANAMAN: Yes.
- MS. SODERNA: If it makes it easier, we have --
- I believe we have copies of the transcript.
- 17 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay.
- MS. SODERNA: Although, I'm not sure how to
- 19 label it.
- 20 JUDGE GILBERT: Well, it's up to them to label
- it because they're using it as a cross-exhibit.
- 22 MR. McMANAMAN: Right.

| 1 | JUDGE GILBERT: So do you have three copies you |
|----|--|
| 2 | can give them? |
| 3 | MS. SODERNA: Yes. |
| 4 | JUDGE GILBERT: You can just hand them three |
| 5 | copies. The transcript itself will be Respondent's |
| 6 | Cross-Exhibit 1 and the CD will be Respondent's |
| 7 | Cross-Exhibit 1A. |
| 8 | (Whereupon, Respondent |
| 9 | Cross-Exhibit Nos. 1 and 1A |
| 10 | were marked for |
| 11 | identification.) |
| 12 | JUDGE GILBERT: Thank you, CUB, for providing |
| 13 | those documents. |
| 14 | (Whereupon, Respondent's Cross |
| 15 | 1A, an audio CD, was played.) |
| 16 | (Whereupon, the following 6 |
| 17 | pages is a transcription of |
| 18 | Respondent's Cross-Exhibit 1.) |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| | |

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1
     STATE OF ILLINOIS
                            )
                                 SS:
2
     COUNTY OF COOK
3
4
              Transcription of a CD Recording of a
5
6
     telephone conversation between a U.S. Savings
     Corporation customer service representative and Alex
7
8
     Zermeno.
9
10
11
12
13
14
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17
18
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22
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- 1 SARAH: Good afternoon. Thank you for calling
- 2 customer service. This is Sarah speaking.
- 3 KAREEM: Hello, Sarah, it's Kareem (phonetic)
- 4 speaking.
- 5 SARAH: Okay. How are you?
- 6 KAREEM: Sarah, can you give me your ID number.
- 7 SARAH: 75062.
- 8 KAREEM: My ID number is 730306.
- 9 SARAH: And what do you have for us today?
- 10 KAREEM: People's account residential five
- 11 years. You will talk with the account holder.
- 12 SARAH: And the name on the account is?
- 13 KAREEM: Alex, A-l-e-x, the last name would be
- 2ermeno, Z-e-r-m-e-n-o.
- 15 SARAH: And the phone number?
- 16 KAREEM: (773) 430-6535.
- 17 SARAH: Thank you.
- 18 Can I speak with Mr. Zermeno.
- 19 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Hello.
- 20 SARAH: Good afternoon. This is Mr. Zermeno?
- 21 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Yes.
- 22 SARAH: Hi, my name is Sarah and I am with U.S.

- 1 Energy Savings and I just need to ask you a couple of
- 2 questions.
- 3 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Okay.
- 4 SARAH: Okay. In order to provide you with a
- 5 price protection reservation code for the agreement
- 6 that you just signed -- and just to let you know our
- 7 call is being recorded for quality purposes.
- 8 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Okay.
- 9 SARAH: Can you please provide me with your
- 10 name.
- 11 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Alex Zermeno.
- 12 SARAH: Thank you. Mr. Zermeno, may I please
- 13 have your People's Gas account number.
- 14 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: 5500047406634.
- SARAH: And the name on the account would be.
- 16 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Alex Zermeno.
- 17 SARAH: Thank you.
- Mr. Zermeno, what would be the best
- 19 phone number we can reach you at?
- 20 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: (773) 430-5535.
- 21 SARAH: Okay. Perfect. Thank you. Now, in
- 22 order to continue the enrollment process for your

- 1 price protection agreement at a rate of \$1.14 per
- therm for a term of five years, we do require a
- 3 confirmation. Of course, while the agreement does
- 4 not promise savings, it does offer piece of mind,
- 5 stability, and protection against potential future
- 6 price increases as well as it does have the potential
- 7 for savings.
- 8 So can you please confirm your
- 9 agreement by responding with the word "yes."
- 10 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Yes.
- 11 SARAH: Thank you.
- So we will continue the enrollment
- 13 procedures necessary to secure your natural gas rate
- 14 at a rate of \$1.14 per therm. You do have three
- 15 business days to cancel this agreement without any
- 16 cost, otherwise in approximately 15 to 90 days you
- 17 should notice USESC's name and toll free number
- 18 appear on your natural gas bill. And at that time
- 19 USESC will be supplying your natural gas at the
- 20 quaranteed fixed price.
- 21 While USESC is not affiliated with
- 22 People's, you will continue to receive one bill in

- 1 the mail from People's Gas and People's Gas will
- 2 continue to deliver your natural gas to your home.
- 3 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Okay.
- 4 SARAH: And for any reason you do not notice
- 5 USESC's name and toll free number appear on your bill
- 6 after the 90 days, if you could please give us a
- 7 call.
- 8 MR. ALEX ZERMENO: Okay.
- 9 SARAH: Thank you so much for your assistance,
- 10 and thank you for choosing U.S. Energy Savings.
- 11 May I please speak back with Kareem
- 12 your independent contractor with you.
- 13 KAREEM: Yes.
- 14 SARAH: Kareem, I verified the information and
- the price protection reservation code is 8540975223.
- 16 KAREEM: Thank you. Have a wonderful day.
- 17 SARAH: Thank you. You, too.

19

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21

| 1 | STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS: |
|----|--|
| 2 | COUNTY OF COOK) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | Auhdikiam Carney, says that he is a |
| б | Certified Shorthand Reporter, in association with |
| 7 | Sullivan Reporting Company, and transcribed to the |
| 8 | best of his ability a CD recording of a telephone |
| 9 | conversation between a U.S. Energy Savings |
| 10 | Corporation customer service representative and Alex |
| 11 | Zermeno. |
| 12 | And, further, he is not connected by blood |
| 13 | or marriage with any of the parties to this action, |
| 14 | nor is he a relative or employee or attorney or |
| 15 | counsel of any of the parties, or financially |
| 16 | interested directly or indirectly in the matter in |
| 17 | controversy. |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
| 22 | Certified Shorthand Reporter License No. 084-004658 |

- 1 JUDGE GILBERT: All right. The playing of the
- 2 CD is over now.
- 3 BY MR. McMANAMAN:
- 4 Q Mr. Zermeno, were you able to hear the CD
- 5 that we just played?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And did you hear your own voice on that CD?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Do you remember who the contractor was that
- 10 came to your house?
- 11 A No. No, I don't remember.
- 12 Q And I'm sorry, that was a poor question. I
- wasn't asking if you remember his name.
- Do you remember him generally?
- 15 A Oh, yes.
- 16 Q Do you remember what he looked like?
- 17 A He was like Asian. He was like Filipino or
- 18 something like that.
- 19 Q Did he speak with an accent?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Do you remember how old?
- 22 A I would say more than 50.

- 1 MR. McMANAMAN: Judge, those are all the
- 2 questions that I have.
- Thank you, Mr. Zermeno.
- 4 JUDGE GILBERT: Does Staff have any cross?
- 5 MS. LIN: None, Judge.
- 6 JUDGE GILBERT: Any redirect?
- 7 MS. SODERNA: I just have one question, I
- 8 think, or two.
- 9 JUDGE GILBERT: Are you ready to do them now or
- 10 do you need to --
- MS. SODERNA: Yes. No, I don't need to wait.
- 12 REDIRECT-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY
- 14 MS. SODERNA:
- 15 Q Did the sales contractor that came to your
- 16 door, did he speak to you in English or Spanish?
- 17 A Some words in Spanish.
- Q Which words did he use in Spanish?
- 19 A When I was -- when he was going to make the
- 20 phone call he said, When I tell you, you say this and
- 21 then you say this.
- MS. SODERNA: That's all I have.

- 1 JUDGE GILBERT: I just have one question.
- 2 Did you believe that the contractor
- 3 could speak Spanish?
- 4 THE WITNESS: (Through the interpreter) He say
- 5 a few words -- a little bit in Spanish.
- 6 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. All right.
- 7 Any recross within the confines of
- 8 either Ms. Soderna's questions or my questions?
- 9 MR. McMANAMAN: Just a couple, your Honor.
- 10 RECROSS-EXAMINATION
- 11 BY
- MR. McMANAMAN:
- Q Did you say anything to the sales
- 14 contractor in English?
- 15 A I don't remember. I don't remember. For
- 16 example, I said, No speak English.
- Q Okay. Other than that, do you remember
- 18 anything else that you might have -- or anything else
- 19 that you said in English?
- 20 A No.
- 21 MR. McMANAMAN: Those are the only questions I
- 22 have, your Honor.

- 1 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. We're done. Witness is
- 2 excused. Thank you, Mr. Zermeno, and thank you, too,
- 3 Mr. Salem.
- 4 MS. SODERNA: Should we go off the record and
- 5 discuss a couple scheduling matters?
- 6 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. We'll go off the record.
- 7 (Whereupon, a discussion was had
- 8 off the record.)
- 9 JUDGE GILBERT: Let's go back on the record
- 10 real quick.
- 11 First of all, Mr. McManaman --
- MR. McMANAMAN: Your Honor, I'd like to move to
- 13 have entered into evidence Respondent Cross-Exhibit 1
- 14 and 1A.
- MS. SODERNA: No objection.
- 16 JUDGE GILBERT: Okay. Respondent's Exhibits 1
- 17 and 1A are admitted.
- 18 (Whereupon, Respondent's Exhibit
- Nos. 1 and 1A were admitted
- into evidence.)
- JUDGE GILBERT: Our game plan for now is to
- take absolutely no more than a half-hour to gather

- 1 food, come back here, we'll start with Ms. Alexander
- 2 who will have to leave by 4:00 o'clock. And so I
- 3 imagine we'll commence right around 2:00 o'clock and
- 4 we'll try to get that done.
- 5 And all the provisos that I stated
- 6 earlier with respect to the conduct of counsel and
- 7 responses to the witness and whether or not this
- 8 witness will or will not have to return, I'll
- 9 determine at the appropriate time later.
- 10 Let's come back at 2:00. Thank you.

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